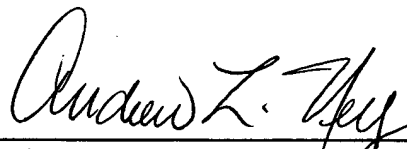


REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RATNER & PRESTIA



Andrew L. Ney, Reg. No. 20,300
Attorney for Applicants

ALN/img

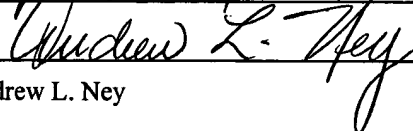
Dated: September 20, 2001

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 (IBM Corporation) of any fees associated with this communication.

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Andrew L. Ney